



# PROMISING PARTNERSHIPS

A Newsletter from the  
MARYLAND POLICE & CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSIONS  
Advanced and Specialized Training

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.,  
Governor  
Michael S. Steele,  
Lt. Governor  
Mary Ann Saar,  
Secretary

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*"Our value derives from providing our customers with quality service, enhanced partnerships, problem solving strategies and the support necessary for the prevention of crime and reduction of fear of crime. We will continue to foster and maintain ethics and integrity, encourage continuous learning, and treat everyone with dignity and respect."*

*Donald Hopkins, Director, MPCTC*

## A Message From the Administrator

By Glen Plutschak, Administrator

Welcome to the first edition of *Promising Partnerships*. I ask you to join us in our mission to "support community partnerships through training and technical assistance." We believe that this newsletter can help accomplish that mission. Together, we want to demonstrate that partnerships among citizens, criminal justice agencies and other governmental and private entities are the very best way to create safer neighborhoods. No agency or community can do this alone. We welcome your success stories, strategies to reduce crime, interagency approaches to offender re-entry and examples of the benefits of a multi-system, team approach to case management. We will communicate these promising partnerships and innovative best practices for all to share.

We also invite you to attend our continuing education classes held monthly throughout the state. These classes are another way for us to network and share our successes.

## The Exit Orientation

*By Dennis Ferrell, Assistant Director of Religious and Volunteer Services, Division of Correction. (This is the first in a series of offender re-entry articles.)*

As part of the Maryland Division of Correction (DOC) long-range strategy to

strengthen pre-release and transition services, an Exit Orientation Service program is underway. The program allows for local government agencies and community service providers to enter Maryland state correctional institutions to meet with offenders before their release. They help the offenders with post-release service needs and information on how their agencies can assist. This formal collaboration of DOC staff with community providers is a first for Maryland.

In 1998, a DOC Pre-Release and Transition work team found that approximately 13,000 offenders were being released in Maryland yearly, with 60% (7,800) returning to Baltimore City. Also, 68% of those entering the city were under post-release supervision, and 70% of those under supervision were re-entering four city zip code areas. Based on this data, DOC officials decided to concentrate on Baltimore as the primary focus for re-entry programming. The transition work team recommended and developed the "Partnership for Re-entry Programming" (PREP) program that consists of a 140 hour full service program (i.e., life skills, employment readiness, victim impact and community information) for offenders with one to two years remaining before release; a medium service program for those with 60 to 90 days left prior to release; and, a short service program for offenders who are less than 60 days and/or 30 days from release. This short service program provides inmates with opportunities to link with service agencies to address their needs after release. The full and medium service programs provide classroom instruction, and the Exit Orientation Service program serves all inmates released statewide.

The exit orientation session allows offenders scheduled for release to meet with community providers, based upon their needs and regional residence. Prior to the session, offenders complete an intake form to identify

services they will need and provide some background data. Each community service agency's representative is given an opportunity to pre-screen, distribute materials, and enroll offenders who meet their criteria. Offenders ask questions and gather contact information for needed services (i.e., housing, employment placement and training assistance, family issues, substance abuse, physical and mental health care, education, and child support services) that can mean success or failure in the transition process.

The exit orientation allows inmates to better organize their aftercare plans and link with area resources. It also allows local government and non-profit agencies to better coordinate services and prepare their intake staff to meet the returning offender's needs.

The 2003 DOC goal is to provide exit orientations for 700 inmates at 16 institutions. It is planned that PREP will expand to 23 institutions over the next two years. The program has currently served over 870 inmates at 16 facilities, with as many as 28 agencies participating, depending upon the size and location of the facility. The exit orientation is an important part of the re-entry services that the Division provides.

How can you help with the success of the exit orientations? You can let service providers throughout the state know that their participation in manning tables for their programs at exit orientations is welcome and needed. It will provide offenders some of the assistance needed to facilitate their transition back into the community. *For more information, contact Dennis Ferrell at 410-585-3329 or (fax) 410-764-4182.*

## **YANA Partners with Maryland Communities**

*By Tracy Hood, LSWA, YANA*

From August 2002 through February 2003, YANA (You Are Never Alone) worked



*Tracy Hood presents to participants at the training summit in Hanover last November*

with MPCTC to assist community-based police and probation teams with effective prostitution interventions. YANA is a private, non-profit organization, which has been operating in Southwest Baltimore for the past six years.

YANA began with its current Executive Director and Founder, Ms. Sid Ford, LCSW-C, speaking with individuals who were prostituting in Baltimore. Listening to them and learning about their lives and needs are essential elements of YANA's success today. Over time, in an effort to meet the direct requests and needs of these individuals, YANA Place was opened. Individuals receive case management, mental health counseling, and other essential services such as food, clothing, showers and hygiene products. YANA is currently the only program in the state of Maryland that works specifically with this population. Research conducted by the University of Maryland School of Nursing validates the effectiveness of this program.

YANA has used the partnership with MPCTC to further explore the statewide needs for prostitution intervention. As an extension of the already conducted research, YANA is doing a follow-up study to include data on women and girls under supervision in Maryland for prostitution-related offenses. The study will also include extensive interviews with women and girls who have been involved in prostitution.

Under the sponsorship of AST, YANA staff teamed with the Baltimore Police Department to do a presentation in mid-April to the Maryland Municipal League on the advantages of law enforcement/provider partnerships during and after arrest of offenders engaged in prostitution. *For more information, contact Tracy Hood at 410-499-2110.*

## Harper's Choice and Long Reach Partnerships Show Success

*By Timothy A. McCarthy, CSC-AD*

The Harper's Choice and Long Reach community-based police and probation teams are dedicated to protecting public safety and reducing recidivism. In the case of one particular offender they have definitely succeeded. The offender had been in the system for more than ten years meeting with the litany of Assistant State's Attorneys, probation agents, treatment specialists and police officers. However, until two years ago, he'd never met with them all at once.

His probation agent would describe him as a "petty career criminal who was bartering away his life in twelve packs." Once the offender was assigned to the team, effective supervision strategies were discussed. During group and individual counseling sessions, the team learned that he had been a starting varsity quarterback at a large high school, and he enjoyed discussing his past successes. What had happened since high school? The team wondered if the strengths that had once made him a standout athlete could be reframed to help him currently. Through effective partnerships including counseling and spiritual outreach, self-esteem was rekindled and the offender was able to put alcohol abuse behind him.

As his sobriety continued, the team placed the offender in aftercare with the Lion of Judah Church pastor. Based on his church conduct, employment and sobriety, the pastor decided to assist him with the purchase of his own home. The Harper's Choice community

has lost a career criminal and the partnering teams have helped someone find a new beginning. *For more information, contact Timothy McCarthy at 410-313-2679.*

## Drug Court Partnerships to Expand

*By Jennifer A. Beskid, Regional Coordinator, MPCTC*

Treatment has taken on a new look in the Maryland criminal justice system as drug courts become more prevalent for both adult and juvenile substance abusing offenders. As examples of newly emerging multi-agency partnerships, drug courts bring together judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, probation agents and treatment providers. These team members, who at times have adversarial relationships, meet regularly to monitor and discuss the recovery of every drug court participant. The benefit of this approach is a greater understanding for all parties about individual agency responsibilities as common ground is found to support each participant in his or her treatment objectives.

The outcome of the drug court partnership is a focus on the offender's substance abuse treatment needs while ensuring compliance with probation conditions. This balanced approach addresses both the offender needs as well as the public safety goals in the community. Therefore, participants develop a unique relationship with all of the members of the drug court team.

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NACDP) has identified key elements for all drug courts. One element focuses on partnerships, which involve community outreach. A natural extension of the drug court initiative would include expanding partnerships to include police, local family service providers, mental health providers and additional community programs.

### The Power of Teamwork

*"When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion."*

*Ethiopian Proverb*



## MARYLAND POLICE & CORRECTIONAL TRAINING COMMISSIONS

### Advanced and Specialized Training

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1623 Forest Drive, Suite 203  
Annapolis, Maryland 21403  
Phone: 410-295-1287  
Fax: 410-990-1523

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Maryland's Drug Court Commission, established in January 2002, assists local jurisdictions in the development of drug courts by drawing upon accepted national policies and practices. The Commission provides technical assistance, training and other support. According to Gray Barton, Executive Director, Drug Court Commission, there are currently eight drug courts actively participating in these promising partnerships. Several others are in the planning stage, including Baltimore County Juvenile Drug Court. *For more information, contact Jennifer Beskid at 410-295-1287.*

#### Training Continuing Education Classes

MPCTC is offering continuing education classes monthly. Classes will be offered most Fridays at regional locations from 8:30 to 12:30 and

include a continental breakfast. The classes are MPCTC certified for agency credit. The schedule is as follows:

**May** – There's No Place Like Home (housing)

**June** – The Generation Gap: Supervision for Juvenile vs. Adult Offenders

**July** – Childhood Trauma: What Is It and How to Deal With It in Adult Offenders

**September** – School Violence

**October** – Asset Building for Youth

**November/December** – Supervising the Sex Offender

Call our office at 410-295-1287 or e-mail us at [ast@pctc.state.md.us](mailto:ast@pctc.state.md.us) for specific dates and locations. Registration is limited to the first 50 participants.